

**Contagious Christians-Student Handout**  
**Lesson 3: The Potential of Close Proximity**

A Bible Study of The Mount Zion Church

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**Contagious (adjective)**

**(Of an emotion, feeling, or attitude) likely to spread to and affect others.**

**Example: "Her enthusiasm is contagious"**

Taken from the book  
Becoming A Contagious Christian:

By Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg

**Introduction:** The following lesson explains the importance of relationships and sharing the gospel message. Often people know they are to share the gospel but struggle with a system of who and where to start. Researchers identify that the potential to help someone accept Jesus increases as one's relationship with said person increases. It is the power of influence and trust a person has with you and I which facilitates the opportunity. By the end of this lesson, students will have a process for identifying potential Christians and will have a few conversation starters which will open the door to sharing Christ.

Scriptures for today's lesson:

John 1: 40

Ruth 1: 8-22

Luke 8: 38-39

Acts 3: 1-6

## **DEEPENING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS AND CONVERSATIONS**

### **Building Relationships**

If building authentic relationships provides the context in which we can best reach others for Christ, then where can we initiate these relationships? We'll look at three places:

1. People we know
2. People we used to know
3. People we'd like to know

### **Key Points on Relationships**

Key points to keep in mind when building and deepening relationships:

- Let the Holy Spirit lead you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ first!
- Mention spiritual matters early.

## Starting Spiritual Conversations

Three approaches to starting spiritual conversations:

**1. Bridging**

Turns the conversation by using the topic being discussed as a bridge to a related spiritual topic.

**2. Questioning**

This is similar to bridging, but instead of making statements, it evokes a response by asking a question.

**3. Inviting**

Turns the conversation toward spiritual topics by inviting our friends to a spiritually-oriented event or gathering to which we think they might relate.

### **Individual Activity:**

*Starting Spiritual Conversations*

#### **Directions**

1. Glance through the three scenarios on page 3.
2. Imagine you are spending time with someone. Choose the scenario that would most likely fit your interaction with that person.
3. Write down a couple of ideas of things you could actually say to transition the conversation, using the Bridging, Questions, or Inviting approaches. Write these in the box after the words, "You might say."

| Scenario  | Possible Transition |              |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| <p>1. You're out in nature talking to a friend, and you can't help noticing the beauty of the trees, the blue skies, and the sounds of the birds.</p> <p><b>Sample Transition:</b><br/> "God must have quite an imagination to create all of this beauty."</p>          | You might say:      | Other Ideas: |
| <p>2. You are talking with a work associated about an upcoming holiday like Christmas or Easter.</p> <p><b>Sample Transition:</b><br/> "I'm curious, do you observe any family or religious traditions around the holiday?"</p>   | You might say:      | Other Ideas: |
| <p>3. You are with some friends talking about popular TV shows, movies, news programs, songs, or books.</p> <p><b>Sample Transition:</b><br/> "Another song I enjoy on the radio is _____<br/> By _____, a singer who is a Christian, and really has a lot to say."</p> | You might say:      | Other Ideas: |

Remember: Jesus commanded us to go into the world and let them know about the salvation He provides. He promises to open doors for us to represent Him as ambassadors! Think of the honor you and I both have as Christ's representative!

How did this lesson help you?

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